

Office Memorandum
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW DEADLINE SET FOR SIXTH ANNUAL FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" CONTEST

A leaflet containing revised rules for the submission of entries in the sixth annual contest to select the design of the Federal "duck stamp" for 1955-56 is now available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, according to an announcement made today by Director John L. Farley.

Principal change is in the new deadline date of November 1 for receipt of the entries; previously, this had been the second Monday of January. This change has been made in order to expedite the production of the new stamp which goes on sale each year on July 1. Entries in the 1955-56 contest, submitted in accordance with contest rules, must now reach the headquarters office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., on or before November 1, 1954.

All interested artists are eligible to enter this contest.

A new feature of the revised leaflet is a statement supplied by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing offering suggestions to prospective contestants on how to prepare a stamp design that will be acceptable to the Bureau from an engraving standpoint. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, of the United States Treasury Department, has the job of making the stamp from the proposed design.

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp--better known as the "duck stamp"--has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have one of these stamps in his possession, in addition to his State hunting license.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

Although the artist receives no direct compensation if his design is selected, the distinction is unique and therefore much sought after. Many of the winning artists in former years have been able to capitalize on their designs by selling autographed prints. All such projects however, are subject to the terms of the contract which the winning artist must sign with the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning reproduction rights.

Artists are given a wide latitude in the choice of medium--pen and ink, oil, watercolor, etching, pencil, etc., and in their subject. The subject, of course, must be a true-to-life portrait of wild waterfowl. Most of the winning entries in previous years were of ducks and geese in action. At any rate, the birds should be in position and plumage "as the hunter sees them."

Prospective duck stamp artists should write to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Washington 25, D. C., for a free copy of the revised "Rules for the Annual Federal Duck Stamp Contest."

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